



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

NOV 15 2007

The Honorable John Conyers, Jr.
Chairman
House Committee on the Judiciary
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on H.R. 3887, the "William Wilberforce Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2007." While this legislation addresses a very important priority to the U.S. Government, it does present serious issues for the United States Agency for International Development (USAID).

1. Section 102 (a)

USAID objects to the proposed amendment to Section 105 (e) of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 set forth in Section 102 (a) of H.R. 3887, which states that "Any trafficking in persons programs of the Department of State or the United States Agency for International Development that are not centrally controlled by the Department of State shall be carried out with concurrence of the Director." USAID's authority and mandate to program for development would be undermined by this provision. This provision limits the ability of USAID to use its development funds in a manner that most effectively fights trafficking in persons. USAID supports some direct anti-trafficking activities which are an integral part of its bilateral mission and central programs. The anti-trafficking efforts are not stand-alone activities but are integrated into USAID's development programs.

In addition, the provision is unnecessary because there is already a process in place for coordination and comment on proposed awards for anti-trafficking projects. This notification and comment procedure was developed by and operates through the Senior Policy Operating Group (SPOG). It includes not only the Department of State and USAID, but also the Departments of Justice, Labor, HHS

and Homeland Security. The process works well and provides an effective platform to address interagency issues.

Nearly all USAID programming is done bilaterally in the field by missions. This is a strength of USAID and coordination does take place on the ground where we can access in country expertise from other agencies and partners. The small amounts of funding programmed centrally by USAID support technical leadership and assistance within USAID. By requiring another bureaucratic layer in Washington, we would be undermining the interagency coordination process and eroding USAID's technical expertise.

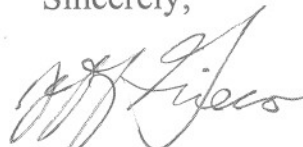
2. Section 233

USAID objects to the proposed amendment to Section 206 of the Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2005 set forth in Section 233 of H.R. 3887 because the change would remove the discretion of federal agencies.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide our views on this legislation. If we can be of further assistance, please do not hesitate to let us know.

The Office of Management and Budget has advised that there is no objection to the presentation of this letter from the standpoint of the Administration's program.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeff Grieco", written over a horizontal line.

Jeffrey Grieco
Acting Assistant Administrator
Bureau for Legislative and
Public Affairs



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The Honorable Lamar S. Smith
Ranking Member
House Committee on the Judiciary
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

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A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Jeffrey Grieco", written in a cursive style.

Jeffrey Grieco
Acting Assistant Administrator
Bureau for Legislative and
Public Affairs

cc: The Honorable Tom Lantos, Chairman, House Committee on Foreign Affairs

The Honorable Ileana Ros-Lehtinen, Ranking Member, House Committee on Foreign Affairs

The Honorable Patrick J. Leahy, Chairman, Senate Committee on the Judiciary

The Honorable Arlen Specter, Ranking Member, Senate Committee on the Judiciary

The Honorable Edward M. Kennedy, Chairman, Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions

The Honorable Michael B. Enzi, Ranking Member, Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions